

Fingold-Dale In Odeon Merger

Television To Be Second Feature?

Relationship of television to motion picture exhibition, a matter which has had the trade thinking, was cleared up for some by Isidor Ostrer, a pioneer in the former field, who predicted that it would replace the second feature in British theatres.

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Retain Optimism, Asks Herb Yates

"As the entertainment leaders of the world, it is the responsibility of the motion picture producers of Hollywood to buoy the spirit of the people and dispel the talk of 'recession' that is beginning to take root in this country," Herbert J. Yates, president

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Pool B Houses To Form 23-Unit Circuit; Absorb Associated

Latest important merger in the Canadian exhibition field is that of Odeon Theatres of Canada with Sam Fingold and Ralph Dale, previously operating Theatre Amusements Company. The new company, known as National Theatre

Nationalization Asked In UK

Proposals for nationalization of part of the British industry were presented to the British Board of Trade by Sir Stafford Cripps in behalf of a committee of ten Socialist MP's. The recommendations do not reflect government policy.

It proposes regrouping of three major circuits into four groups, two of which would be government-controlled, state distribution and control of studio space to aid Independent production. J. Arthur Rank, Sir Alexander Korda and Michael Balcon were heard by the committee.

Hwd. Eagle-Lion Pix For Canada?

Eagle-Lion (Hollywood) features, announced as high-budget productions, may be distributed in Canada through PRC facilities, similar to their handling in the USA. It is known that David Griesdorf, H. J. Allen, N. A. Taylor and H. S. Mandell were in

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Carey Sr. and Jr.

Harry Carey and his son of the same name will appear together in Sam Goldwyn's "Red River," to be megged by Howard Hawks.

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ASN Plays Host To FP Men



Associated Screen News was host to members of the Famous Players organization during the recent regional meeting in Montreal. Shown at the luncheon held in the studio are Vince O'Leary, G. Robert, David Mackenzie, Paul Vallere, Sarto Robert, L. M. Gibbs, Harold Peberdy, Bert Brown, James Nairn, Morris Stein, B. E. Norrish, Ray Tubman, Bill Singleton, Ernie Smithies, Les Mitchell, Henry Marshall, Gordon Sparling, Clarence Markell, J. W. Campbell, Jack MacLennan, George Forhan and Louis Gauthier.

Eagle-Lion To Offer Up To 35 In '46-7

With the Eagle-Lion releasing schedule now stepped up to 35 features for the season, that organization is also broadening greatly the range and styles of entertainment in its forthcoming films from the J. Arthur Rank studios.

The list extends from the cattle-driving opus set in Australia's open spaces, "The Overlanders" to "A Matter of Life and Death," seen first at London's recent command performance, which introduces the new chromatic Technicolor and monochrome and is stated to be, technically, years in advance of anything yet seen on the screen.

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New Release Title

"Vacation Days" will be the release title for Monogram's "Teen-Agers Go West."

Granada, St. Kitts Now Park Theatre

Reopening of the former Granada Theatre, St. Catharines, Ontario, as the Park by Twentieth Century Theatres was marked by official ceremonies participated in by the mayor and other local dignitaries. A gathering in the leading hotel followed the conclusion of the first show.

The house has been altered and refurbished completely.

The theatre is one of a number being renovated and altered by the company.

Park Re-elected

were elected vice-presidents and Leroy J. Chown, Calgary, was voted in as secretary-treasurer. A Pioneers' meeting followed.

The annual meeting of the Alberta Theatres Association, held in the Pallister Hotel, Calgary, last week, re-elected Matt Park as its president. Walter P. Wilson, Edmonton, and Doug Miller, Taber,

Fingold, Dale In Odeon Merger

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SAM FINGOLD

His Theatre Amusements Company has merged with Odeon holdings to form a B circuit company, which he will head.

Peerless Program Toronto Holdover

"Swiss Family Robinson" and "Birth of a Star," double bill from Peerless Films, held over three extra days at the Rio, Yonge Street, Toronto. Jack Rother of Peerless says that he and Howard Hughes, whose "Outlaw" is at Loew's, gave Yonge Street its only lineups that week. Danny Kaye is starred in "Birth of a Star."

'The Devil's Deputy'

Peggy Wynne will play opposite Johnny Mack Brown in Monogram's "The Devil's Deputy."

vice-president of the new venture, which will affect 42 theatres in all and seek to expand its interests. Dale will act as buyer and two bookers will be placed on the new staff, which will be housed in offices in the exchange area.

Odeon Theatres had been considering the formation of a B circuit for some time and, with many new houses opening in 1947, such a move now seemed opportune to the Honorable J. Earl Lawson, president of the company.

The training of management and staff for the new theatres, plus the added duties and responsibilities which the opening of new houses will place on operational heads, is the chief reason given by Lawson for the merger. Fingold has been a partner in certain Ontario houses in which Odeon has an equal interest and both Odeon and Fingold have increased their respective theatre interests.

The theatres formerly controlled exclusively by Fingold and Dale affected by the merger are the Royal, Bowmanville; Hume, Burlington; Roxy, Chesley; Roxy, Grimsby; Roxy, Harriston; Elmwood, London; Capitol, Midland; and the Alexander, Wallaceburg. The Roxy, Cornwall, was owned equally by Theatre Amusements and Odeon. The Odeon houses

in the deal are the Capitol, Brampton; Royal, Savoy, Windsor and York, Hamilton; Avalon, Nola and Rexy, Ottawa; Regent, Sturgeon Falls; Colony, Doric, Grant and Paradise, Toronto, and the Roxy, Wallaceburg.

Fingold formed Theatre Amusements in 1945 when Ralph Dale, head buyer and booker for Odeon, and Dick Main, supervisor, resigned to join him in partnership. Several months ago Main withdrew to enter exhibition on his own in Sutton and later Listowel. Fingold, whose home town is Aurora, entered the theatre business in 1937 with the acquisition of the theatre in Mount Forest.

Dale started with Paramount 23 years ago, later joining Famous Players as assistant to Ben Geldsaler. In 1941 he resigned to become head booker and buyer of Odeon when that circuit was activated by Paul and the late N. L. Nathanson, following the latter's separation from Famous Players.

Billy Rose Story

A story contained in Billy Rose's syndicated column, "Pitching Horseshoes," is to be made into a two-reel Technicolor musical featurette by Paramount Pictures. The studio purchased the story from the famed Broadway showman and scheduled production to start immediately under the title, "Champagne For Two." Concerning an elderly woman who tells a white lie about a planned holdup of a New York nightclub in order to wangle an anniversary celebration for herself and ailing husband, the purchase of this story is believed to be the first time a columnist negotiated sale of story material from a column to a motion picture studio.

Nozaki On 'Catalina'

Albert Nozaki has been assigned by Paramount as art director on "Catalina," story with music which William Russell will direct with Sterling Hayden, Billy DeWolfe, Olga San Juan and Cass Daley.

DeWolfe, Rasumny In 'Variety Girl'

Bill DeWolfe will do a burlesque on ballet in Paramount's all-star musical romance, "Variety Girl." Mikhail Rasumny also appears in the sketch with DeWolfe as the satiric announcer who "interprets" the ballet.

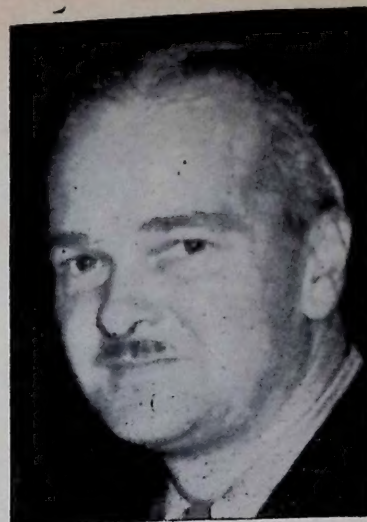
Roxy, High Prairie, Alberta Burnt Out

Fire of unknown origin destroyed the Roxy Theatre, High Prairie, Alberta, a two-day 125-seat theatre operated by George Watson. Damage is estimated at \$10,000.

Exchange Workers Elect Officers

Tom Sharpe was elected president and Max Applebaum vice-president of Local B. 73, Film Exchange Workers Union, IATSE, Toronto. Secretary is Larry Lewis and treasurer Roy McLean.

Also on the executive board are William Maguire, Blaine Covert, Anne McLean and Kay Gilles.



RALPH DALE

Partner in Theatre Amusements Company, and vice-president and buyer for the new company arising out of an Odeon merger.

Hwd. Eagle-Lion Pix For Canada?

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New York last week for discussions.

Griesdorf admitted that the major purpose of the Canadian group's visit to New York was to secure the features for Canada.

Ten features yearly in the million dollar class are scheduled. These are under the supervision of Bryan Foy, vice-president in charge of production. Foy, an outstanding creator of boxoffice films, left an important place in the 20th-Fox roster to take his present position.

Features ready are "It's a Joke, Son" and "Amy Comes Across," the latter starring Franchot Tone. Others in various stages of preparation are "Prelude to Night," "Repeat Performance," starring Franchot Tone and Joan Leslie; "Kenny," a Louis Bromfield story; "Out of the Blue," "Clementine" and "Montana."

Five Top Stars Cast

Five of 20th-Fox' top female stars have tentatively been assigned title roles in the picturization of John Klempner's novel, "Letter to Five Wives." Those assigned are Linda Darnell, Gene Tierney, Maureen O'Hara, Dorothy McGuire and Alice Faye.

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Many exhibitors told us that their folks positively rolled in the aisles when Red Skelton did that uproarious radio announcer skit in M-G-M's "Ziegfeld Follies." They're waiting for him to come again—and his fame on the air has made him a bigger name than ever. His new picture is Skelton at his funniest, a big attraction in every way!

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Screen Play by George Wells • Adapted from the Play by George Kelly

Directed by HARRY BEAUMONT • Produced by ALBERT LEWIS

Retain Optimism, Asks Herb Yates

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of Republic Pictures, stated recently.

Yates spoke as Republic sound stages bristled with the greatest activity in the company's meteoric 11-year history. Three top-budget productions, costing over \$4,000,000 are currently rolling at the North Hollywood studio.

"The public reflects our attitudes. If we are downcast and discouraged, if we are fearful of the future, it is bound to evidence itself in our productions," he continued. "Anyone with any degree of common sense should realize that we are on the threshold of the most bountiful era in our history.

"Our responsibility is not only to the public but also to the exhibitor. He is nurtured by triumphs. He is inspired to go out and give full vent to his showmanship talents when he has the proper merchandise to exploit. And it is up to us to deliver it.

"Republic will more than fulfill its rightful obligation to both the theatre-going public and the exhibitors now and in the immediate future by delivering the type and quality of product which is designed to entertain and inspire an entertainment hungry populace," Yates asserted.

In the backlog of 26 pictures already completed since May, every type of entertainment is represented. "Angel and The Badman," starring John Wayne and Gail Russell, and "Plainsman and The Lady," starring William Elliott and Vera Ralston, are western romances; while "That Brennan Girl," starring James Dunn and Mona Freeman, is a modern melodrama. "Calendar Girl" and "Hit Parade of 1947" are bright musical romances. Roy Rogers and Gene Autry star in several musical Westerns.

Griff Barnett Cast

Griff Barnett has been signed for a character role in "Saigon" Paramount's Alan Ladd-Veronica Lake starring picture which Leslie Fenton is directing. Barnett recently completed a role in Paramount's "The Big Haircut."

Larry Parks Cast In New Starring Role

Larry Parks, who became an overnight sensation with his portrayal of the title role in "The Jolson Story," has been named by Columbia to star in another big Technicolor feature, "The Swordsman." Ellen Drew has top feminine role, with Joseph H. Lewis directing and Burt Kelly producing.

Eagle-Lion To Offer Up To 35 In '46-7

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Eagle-Lion in future will tend to follow British rather than USA titles. In the USA, "A Matter of Life and Death" will be called "Stairway to Heaven."

British personalities which, over the last 18 months, have developed established followings in Canada, all figure heavily in coming releases. After "They Were Sisters," two more James Mason features will be issued, "Odd Man Out" and "The Upturned Glass." Stewart Granger follows "Caravan" and "Waterloo Road" with "The Magic Bow," the Paganini romance with Yehudi Menuhin music. Patricia Roc, back from Hollywood, will be seen next in "The Brothers." Margaret Lockwood's "Bedelia" is ready to follow "The Wicked Lady." Phyllis Calvert appears in the African jungle in Technicolor for "Men of Two Worlds"; in "The Magic Bow" with Granger and Jean Kent; and in "They Were Sisters," with James Mason.

As forecast, this quintet proved strongest at the boxoffice during the first season of Eagle-Lion's intensive selling in the Canadian market.

But London is also bringing along a new bevy of star material. Jean Kent, ("Madonna of the Seven Moons" and "Caravan") was the first example.

Others are Sally Gray, Jean Simmons, Hazel Court, Dennis Price, Kathleen Ryan, Richard Attenborough and David Farrar.

The round-the-world trend, evident in the Australian "The Overlanders" and the African "Men of Two Worlds," continues with "Black Narcissus" from India and "Green Days and Blue Days" from Brazil. The British are also paying more attention to best-selling material, such as Stefan Zweig's "The Years Between," which is ready for release and Daphne du Maurier's "Hungry Hill," which is in the final stages of production.

Releases in Canada will also be tied closely to Hollywood lend-lease tours of stars from the Rank studios. With Deborah Kerr on this side to play opposite Gable, her new film, "I See a Dark Stranger," will be timed with USA and Canadian interest in her Hollywood activities. Michael Redgrave's "The Captive Heart" will be in release when he reaches America for his starring chore on the coast. In addition, Canada will see more Rank stars in person following the flying appearance at the Motion Picture Pioneers ball in Toronto of the first trio, Kim Hunter, Chips Rafferty and Paul Dupuis.

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Television To Be Second Feature?

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Ostrer, former chairman of the board of Gaumont British, told USA trade papers reporters in New York that television would begin in a big way next year and that it would have great effect on theatre operation. He said he thought that all theatres would install television equipment, the cost of which would be less than early sound projectors.

Chairman of the board of Premiere Films, formed by his son, Maurice, Ostrer's chief interest today is television, his interests being merged with those of J. Arthur Rank in a company known as Cinema Television, Limited. Home receiving sets of the Baird system, which is used by Cinema Television, will be sold at \$250. Baird equipment will be installed in 14 British theatres soon.

In the meantime the Allen B. Du Mont Laboratories have announced Photovision, invented by Dr. Dumont, whereby pictures and sound can be carried from one point to another over a light beam instead of radio waves. Able to transmit color as well as black-and-white images, it may replace the coaxial cable for inter-city relay.

New WB Series

Warners has scheduled six shorts in a new Americana series.



"You're complaining? You're hungry? Listen, fellows — my wife's in there, too! It's a problem."



Paramount's 'Cross My Heart' Is Betty Hutton Comedy

PARAMOUNT's "Cross My Heart" is a fast-paced, song-filled comedy with an unusual theme that gives Betty Hutton, Sonny Tufts, Rhys Williams, Ruth Donnelly and a good supporting cast lots of opportunities to raise plenty of shenanigans in places that range from a chorus line to a courtroom.

Betty Hutton confesses to a murder that she didn't commit in order to give her lawyer boy-friend, Sonny Tufts, a chance to build a reputation in court. She is acquitted and later the real murderer is found.



Claudia And David

with Dorothy McGuire, Robert Young
20th-Fox 78 Mins.
COMEDY AND DRAMA ARE SUPERBLY BLENDED IN DOMESTIC FILM ESPECIALLY RECOMMENDED FOR FEMMES.

In "Claudia and David" 20th-Fox has turned out a sequel to its "Claudia" that is every bit as good as the original. From the Rose Franken stories about the domestic life of a young couple Vera Caspary has done an adaptation from which Miss Franken and William Brown Meloney have fashioned a screenplay full of warmth and understanding. The picture, a mixture of drama and humor of high quality, is particularly to be recommended as entertainment for women patrons, who will find the film an emotional exercise above the ordinary. Where "Claudia" was a success "Claudia and David" can be expected to do as well, if not better.

Dorothy McGuire and Robert Young once more are Claudia and David, giving the same fine accounts of themselves as they did in "Claudia." They make their domestic problems seem believable and understandable. Exaggeration has small place in the story of two young people who have their little misunderstanding like so many countless couples in real life.

Walter Lang's sympathetic direction helps to give the film a convincing quality. Under his guidance the film takes on a gentleness that cannot but touch a person's heart. He has made every effort to keep the film simple and real.

Much of the story revolves around Claudia's undue concern for the health of her youngster and her reaction to David's interest in matters outside the home. How Claudia is given a maturer insight into marital life comprises some of the most moving and entertaining passages in the film. William Perlberg has produced superbly well.

Mary Astor, John Sutton, Gail Patrick, Rose Hobart and Harry Davenport are some of the others whose work rates attention.

CAST: Dorothy McGuire, Robert Young, Mary Astor, John Sutton, Gail Patrick, Rose Hobart, Harry Davenport, Florence Bates.

CREDITS: Producer, William Perlberg; Director, Walter Lang; Screenplay, Rose Franken, William Brown Meloney; Adaptation, Vera Caspary; Based on stories by Rose Franken; Cameraman, Joseph La Shelle. DIRECTION, Fine. PHOTOGRAPHY, Good.

Blondie Knows Best

with Arthur Lake, Penny Singleton
Columbia 69 Mins.
RELIABLE DOMESTIC LAFF FARE IS STAPLE GOODS FOR THE FAMILY TRADE.

Subtitle this one "In and Out of Trouble With the Bumsteads" and you have the series in a brief line. Homey stuff all the way, in a gradual manner these offerings have been given finer production touches as they progress. That the general audience likes the "Blondie" series is a foregone conclusion. This one should turn that trick again.

Arthur Lake tangles with a neighbor one Sunday morning. His intentions are good but they go haywire. Immediately he is up to his neck in a damage suit. The neighbor is a lawyer. A process server takes up Lake's trail. At the office there's confusion after the boss tangles on the street with a prospective customer. Lake plays "Mr. Dithers" to cover the error. In order to close the deal he must go nightclubbing with Jerome Cowan.

Girls cause complications. "Blondie" appears. New business is scouted. Cowan is made aware of the ruse attempted on him and cancels his business. Lake is propositioned by a pair of screwy scientists. In short order all is for naught. Lake spends the night in a park escaping the process server.

Next day when things come into proper focus again Lake is found at a research institute where he had just undergone "shots" for a truth serum experiment. He just cannot tell lies, not even small ones. There's a fine bit of comic business here when everyone is hunting for Lake, including his dogs. At length Lake comes out \$500 ahead. The damage suit is settled and all is well again until the next in the series comes along.

CAST: Penny Singleton, Arthur Lake, Larry Simms, Marjorie Kent, Steven Geray, Jonathan Hale, Shemp Howard, Jerome Cowan.

CREDITS: Director, Abby Berlin; Screenplay by Edward Berns, Al Martin; Based on comic strip by Chic Young; Cameraman, Philip Tannura.

DIRECTION, Good. PHOTOGRAPHY, Good.

So Dark The Night

with Steven Geray, Micheline Cheirel
Columbia 70 Mins.
AN OUTSTANDING MYSTERY PROGRAMMER; TASTEFUL PRODUCTION, KEEN DIRECTION; GOOD VALUES ALL AROUND.

In a sense Director Joseph H. Lewis has followed the creditable pattern he laid down in last year's "My Name Is Julia Ross" which gave an excellent account of itself. Again Lewis utilizes the psychological element in telling his story. His cast is composed of familiar supporting players who prove that given the chance, they can rise above the mediocrity of standardized roles. Steven Geray in the main part gives a handsome account of his talents. Minor roles were realistically cast.

From almost the outset the spectator is made aware that all is not well in a small French village where Geray, a famous Paris detective, comes for a rest. This aspect is further complicated when Geray falls in love with Miss Cheirel who is fascinated by his tales of Paris. A country girl, she is "promised" to a poor farmer.

At the Geray-Cheirel engagement party Paul Marion, the farmer, appears and vents his anger. That night Marion and Miss Cheirel are found murdered. Geray sets to work on the case. Miss Cheirel's mother is the next victim. Clues lead nowhere and Geray winds up in Paris police headquarters. What comes off from this point on is the meat of the story and the novel conclusion is one that will set the audience to some serious, though brief, thinking.

Lewis' direction emphasizes suspense and his backgrounds and landscapes are fairly authentic. The production details are handsome.

CAST: Steven Geray, Micheline Cheirel, Eugene Borden, Ann Codee, Egon Brecher, Helen Freeman, Theodore Gottlieb, Gregory Gay, Jean Del Val, Emil Ramu.

CREDITS: Producer, Ted Richmond; Director, Joseph H. Lewis; Based on a story by Aubrey Wisberg; Cameraman, Burnett Guffey.

DIRECTION, Excellent. PHOTOGRAPHY, Excellent.

Shadow of A Woman

with Helmut Dantine, Andrea King
Warners 78 Mins.
EFFECTIVE DRAMATIC OFFERING SHOULD ACCOUNT FAVORABLY WITH THE FEMMES.

The story pattern of this offering varies from the run of the mill dramatic story with overtones of mystery and crime. One of its virtues is the constant confronting of the villain of the piece with his past performances in lethal medical quackery, marriage, fatherhood and his immediate family. These elements tend to set him off on tangents with his newly-wed bride and while she tries hard to fit into the strange picture she soon learns that there's dirty work afoot.

Andrea King, bereaved of her parents and on the verge of a breakdown, enters a hasty marriage with Helmut Dantine in southern California. Their honeymoon is interrupted when Dantine is called to San Francisco. He brings Miss King home with him and she enters his morbid household. Dantine's sister, crippled nephew and young child inhabit a Nob Hill mansion. They cringe at his appearance and coldly receive his bride. Dantine is a phoney medico who prescribes dietary cures to hopelessly-ill patients.

It takes Miss King just a few days to learn of Dantine's past and why he distrusts everything and everybody. His son stands to inherit a million. His ex-wife and her lover show up thinking they have a case of moral turpitude which will give over custody of the child. Miss King reveals that she is married to Dantine. The case collapses, but when she probes and questions the actual state of affairs is revealed and she cools quickly to Dantine. When Dantine realizes he is trapped he resorts to murder. He tries to kill Miss King. Her crippled brother intervenes. There is a slambang brawl. Dantine gets socked and crashes through a balcony window. The balcony collapses taking Dantine with it to death.

CAST: Helmut Dantine, Andrea King, William Prince, John Alvin, Becky Brown, Dick Erdman, Peggy Knudson, Don McGuire.

CREDITS: Producer, William Jacobs; Director, Joseph Santley; Screenplay, Whitman Chambers, C. Graham Baker; Based on novel by Virginia Perdue; Cameraman, Bert Glennon.

DIRECTION, Effective. PHOTOGRAPHY, Good.

People Come &
People Go ...



There's One Born
Every Instant

TYPODERMIC INJECTIONS: Reading trade news, the letter J keeps getting in your eyes like cinders on a windy day. There are J. Arthur Rank, J. Arthur Hirsch, J. Earl Lawson and J. J. Fitzgibbons. I'm Jded, I guess . . . Harry Alexander is wintering in St. Petersburg, Florida . . . On his nights to owl a friend of mine transfers most of his money from his pant pocket to one in his shirt, figuring that it's safer not to have his X's in one basket. Last time he did that he forgot to put it back and in the morning, while he was still asleep, his wife tossed the shirt into the washing machine. He just found out there's pulp in money as well as money in pulp . . . That USA marine around town with Arthur Gottlieb is Michael Peskin of New York, who will manage the Ravina rink. A lifetime pal of Arthur's, he has been in the corps since before the first international set-to and has so many ribbons that it would take Technicolor to do him justice photographically . . . Syd Newman, CCO producer, became the father of a baby girl recently and his NFB colleagues one-sheeted the event as "The latest CCO Release, Small Fry" . . . Thought: Whatever became of Madge Evans? . . . "Do you get the Book of the Month?" a seller asked a feller. "I sure do," he answered, "and it's good for eight bottles again". . . "Actors and burglars work after dark" — Sir Cedric Hardwicke . . . "Up to his neck a man is worth only the price of a day's labor" — Mark Hanna . . . "Principles have no real force except when one is well fed"—Mark Twain . . . Percy Smith, B & F booker, is ill . . . Jack McLennan, Capitol, Brockville, was elected an alderman.

"WHISKEY," THE PROFESSOR told his class, "has a powerful effect on all things. I will demonstrate this for you and expect you will govern your use of it with that fact in mind."

He brought out two tumblers, one filled with water, the other with whiskey. He dropped a worm into the water and it wriggled. Then he placed one in the whiskey and in an instant it was dead.

"Let that be a lesson to all of you," he said. "From now on you know what to do when you get worms."

TALES OF AN INSIDE WAY: There are dozens of stories which end with the moral, "Always get a receipt." I just heard about a landlord who got rid of an unwanted tenant by not depositing the rent cheque delivered by the tenant's wife when he was out of town. She thought the cashed cheque would be as good as a receipt. The landlord held the cheque and tore it up when no enquiries were made for 15 days. He then notified the tenant that, being in arrears, would he please vacate. The closest thing to proof of payment or willingness to pay on time the tenant had was the stub.

In the matter of devious dodges, Jim Manchester, man-about-town, told me about one at the fights recently. Jim has a special interest in fights and he brought Tommy Loughran here before the war to battle Hans Berkie. He and I recalled the still-disputed struggle in the Armouries' ring between Soldier Jones of Toronto, one of the hardest hitters in the world, and the great Harry Greb, one of the cleverest fighters. In the third round Greb got careless and Jones put him down. He was as prone as a planked steak when the bell saved him and in the next round, angered by a slur from Jones, he knocked him out. But Jones always maintained that the third round had been shortened to save Greb from a knockout. It was done, he said, by a member of Greb's party who, from a distance, speeded a 50-cent piece at the bell and hit it, ending the round!

But there are also shortcuts which can be justified. For instance, this is the time of year when mom is a heel in junior's eyes if she doesn't get him those too-expensive toys he saw when visiting Santa in the department store. One wise mother now outsmarts junior by going to the store alone and noting the location of the toys she can afford. The next day she brings junior and steers him over that charted and financially-safe course. That way he is sure to get whatever he saw and liked.

HE HAD IT: The easy buck boys are busy again and put the bite on one of the most vigilant lads in our industry last week. This fellow, a trusting sort, is in the equipment business. He shall go unidentified here because he would doubtless be benumbed by his name in print. One morning last week his phone rang.

"This is Wilbur McStash of the McGoop Theatre, Phumpher Falls," said the voice. The local lad knew that there was a McStash connected with theatres in that area and so he gave him his big-size hello. "Say, do me a favor," continued McStash. "I was supposed to be at your place at ten this morning and I made a date to meet a friend in his car outside at about that time. Will you tell him for me that I won't be there and for him to meet me where I'm phoning from, which is the distiller's? He knows which one. And I'll be at your place at two o'clock to see you about some equipment."

The local lad looked out of the window and saw a man standing beside an automobile. "Okay," he said, and added some humorous comment about the McStash being at the distiller's. "I'm here to pick up some imported Scotch at the wholesale price of three dollars per bottle from a friend of mine," McStash explained.

"Imported Scotch at three dollars per bottle!" exclaimed the equipment man, thinking of his Yuletide needs. "Sure," said the other, "Do you want some?" He did—he would like three. "Then give the man outside ten dollars and tell him what it's for. I'll bring the Scotch when I come to your office at two o'clock."

So he gave the man the ten dollars and that was the last he saw of it or the conspirators. Now he feels like an all-time sucker. But he's telling the story on himself. In fact, he told the boys about it that same morning, having been so convinced that he had made a mistake that he wanted to recover his ten dollars by betting that two o'clock would prove him bilked. It did.

A SOGGY, FOGGY stew got caught up in a funeral procession and found himself with the mourners at the graveside.

"Earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust," intoned the minister.

"Hooray, you got my vote," shouted the stew. "Nobody could ask for a squarer deal than that!"

PARODY OF JOYCE KILMER's "Trees" by an unknown author:

I think that I shall never see
Aught lovely as a pulpwood tree.

A tree that grows through sunny noons
To furnish sporting page cartoons.

A tree whose girth will prove its age
Is ample for a want ad page.

A tree with grace toward heaven rising,
Men macerate for advertising.

A tree that lifts its arms and laughs
To be made into paragraphs.

A tree that falls before the saw,
A five-star final in the raw.
is an Odeon man . . . A cop who stopped a speeder was surprised to hear him explain, "I've only got a little gas left and I wanted to get to a station before it ran out."

NOTES OF A TYPOCHONDRIAC: Joe and Mrs. Leiberman, passing through from Boston and New York, dropped in on friends and family here . . . George Hill, Massey Hall boxoffice, just got out of bed after six weeks of illness . . . Doug Rosen, they tell, did himself proud toastmastering the Dave Romberg stag and will cause that occasion to be memorable in the annals of industry fun hereabouts . . . Joe Krol, famed Argo footballer,

In the news—on the air—in trade talk—in showmen's plans . . . every minute 'til Christmas, there'll be

Nothing but

“BLUES”

from now on

PARAMOUNT brings you IRVING BERLIN, In Person
—to take you on a personally conducted tour of the sky-high
marquee values in the biggest musical this company has ever made...

MR.
BERLIN

...BLUE SKIES... YOU KEEP COMING BACK LIKE A SONG (new)... WHITE CHRISTMAS... HEAT WAVE...

...A PRETTY GIRL IS LIKE A MELODY... SERENADE TO AN OLD FASHIONED GIRL (new)... PUTTIN' ON THE RITZ...

...GETTING NOWHERE (new)... I'VE GOT MY CAPTAIN WORKING FOR ME NOW... ALWAYS...

...A COUPLE OF SONG AND DANCE MEN... THIS IS THE ARMY, MR. JONES... ALL BY MYSELF... SOME SUNNY DAY...

...OH, HOW I HATE TO GET UP IN THE MORNING... YOU'D BE SURPRISED... I'LL SEE YOU IN CUBA...

...RUSSIAN LULLABY... HOW DEEP IS THE OCEAN... EVERYBODY STEP... THE LITTLE THINGS IN LIFE.....



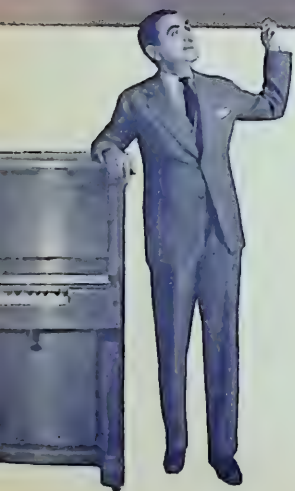
"'BLUE SKIES' HAS SOME OF MY BEST SONGS. CERTAINLY NONE IN MY CATALOGUE CAN TOP 'A PRETTY GIRL IS LIKE A MELODY,' 'WHITE CHRISTMAS,' 'HEAT WAVE' or 'HOW DEEP IS THE OCEAN'!"

Right, Mr. Berlin! In fact, there are 32 of your wonderful songs—7 of them in big-scale production numbers. And 3 of them brand new—including the current Hit Parade favorite, "You Keep Coming Back Like A Song"!



**"BING CROSBY SINGS 16 OF MY SONGS IN 'BLUE SKIES'
DON'T TAKE MY WORD FOR IT—ASK ANY SONG WRITER;
NO ONE CAN BRING TO A SONG WHAT HE DOES!"**

Yes, sir—and every one of the 16 times Bing sings, it's all in Technicolor and all terrific . . . a record treat for Bing's fans! And there'll be another treat for them too, when they see Bing dance!



"FRED ASTAIRE HAS DANCED TO MY MUSIC IN OTHER HIT PICTURES—BUT NEVER, IN MY OPINION, HAS HE BEEN AS WONDERFUL AS IN 'BLUE SKIES'!"

Mr. Berlin, millions will agree—especially when they see the amazing "Puttin' On the Ritz" Multiple Tap which Life raves about. It's Fred's greatest dancing—in his farewell dancing role on the screen!



"I WROTE 'A PRETTY GIRL IS LIKE A MELODY' IN 1919. IF **JOAN CAULFIELD** HAD BEEN ACTING THEN, THE WORLD WOULD HAVE SUNG IT TO HER. YOU'LL SEE HOW BEAUTIFUL SHE IS IN '**BLUE SKIES**'."

May we add a word, Mr. Berlin? Joan's lovelier than lovely in Technicolor—singing and dancing in a romance-filled script. Successive leads with two top Paramount stars—Hope and now Bing—give her big marquee importance!



"IN 'BLUE SKIES,' BILLY DE WOLFE IS ONE OF THE BEST COMEDIANS I'VE EVER SEEN. I HOPE I'M LUCKY ENOUGH TO HAVE HIM IN THE NEXT PICTURE I DO!"

And all the critics call him tops, Mr. Berlin! "He's a knock-out!" says Film Daily. "A talented new joker!" raves Life. "Will roll audiences in the aisles!" predicts Showmen's Trade Review. Smart showmen will put his name right up in lights!



"OF THE NEW-COMERS, NO ONE I'VE SEEN
SHOWS AS MUCH PROMISE AS **OLGA SAN JUAN**.
SHE'S SWELL IN '**BLUE SKIES**' "

Mr. Berlin, Olga's as sultry as your wonderful "Heat Wave" song! She's a sensation as Astaire's latest—and *last*—screen dancing partner! And there are hundreds of Blue Skies Beauties with them in this torrid, rhythmic Caribbean number!

20 YEARS OF PARAMOUNT RECORDS
SMASHED AT THE N. Y. PARAMOUNT BY

Irving Berlin's

"BLUE SKIES"

In Technicolor

Starring

Bing Crosby
Fred Astaire
Joan Caulfield

with Billy De Wolfe • Olga San Juan
and The Blue Skies Beauties

Lyrics and Music by Irving Berlin • Produced by Sol C. Siegel • Directed by Stuart Heisler
Screen Play by Arthur Sheekman • Adaptation by Allen Scott

"Terrific grosses!"
—Variety

"A Natural!"
—M. P. Daily

"Sweeping appeal!"
—M.P. Herald

"Best ever!"
—Independent

"Top
Boxoffice!"
—Daily Variety

"Money
Show!"
—Boxoffice Digest

PARAMOUNT'S BIGGEST SEASON has started...
with the 2 Biggest Hits on Broadway—"Blue Skies" at the
Paramount—"Two Years Before the Mast" at the Rivoli!

Eagle-Lion Will Offer 35 In '47

(Continued from Page 5)

In the cases of several important pictures, Canadian release will be set ahead to be almost day-and-date with the London premiere. The most important of these is the Dickens' melodrama, "Great Expectations," made by the Noel Coward-Cineguild team and starring John Mills and Valerie Hobson. This is slated for heavy holiday-time attention simultaneously in Canada and the United Kingdom.

For its French schedule, from Gaumont Français, which begins early in the New Year, Eagle-Lion starts with 18 feature, stressing the fact that the star lineup includes top French names already well established in Quebec. Among these are Fernandel, Gaby Morlay, Noel-Noel, Henri Garat, Josette Day and Pierre-Richard Willm.

Boy Scout Head To Give Co-operation

Major-General D. C. Spry, CBE, DSO, new chief executive commissioner of the Canadian Boy Scouts Association, has announced that the association will co-operate to the utmost on all playdates of Warner Brothers' "Men of Tomorrow."

The two-reel Technicolor short describes many of the phases of Boy Scout activities and Leonard L. Johnson, director of public relations, has informed all districts to support local engagements of the film.

Massey Signs 5-Year Pact With Warners

Raymond Massey has signed a new five-year contract with Warner Brothers, it was announced by Jack L. Warner, executive producer recently. Massey has just finished work in "Possessed" with Joan Crawford and Van Heflin.

Leigh, Olivier To Do 'Cyrano' In USA

A deal has been set for Vivien Leigh and Laurence Olivier to star in a production by Universal-International of "Cyrano de Bergerac" in Hollywood late in January. Producer will be Garson Kanin.

Negotiations were said to have been completed by Robert Goldstein, Universal's eastern studio representative, on his recent visit to England. He clinched the deal with the stars and with Sir Alexander Korda, who owns the rights to the original Rostand play.

ECHOES and REFLECTIONS

Rights of a Film Critic

By Frank Swanson, from the Ottawa Evening Citizen

A test case to decide a film critic's rights as against film companies' objections is pending in the United Kingdom courts. Miss E. Arnot Robertson, noted British novelist and film critic, has been reviewing films in broadcasts for the British Broadcasting Corporation.

After an unfavorable criticism of a film recently, Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer wrote the B.B.C. a letter in which they alleged that Miss Robertson was "completely out of touch with the tastes and entertainment requirements of the picture-going millions." They went on to "request the co-operation" of the B.B.C. in seeing that their film critic did not attend future press showings of their films.

Miss Robertson through her solicitors, demanded a public apology from the company. The company issued a refusal and affirmed their accusations. Now Miss Robertson has issued a writ for libel, claiming that such a decision on the part of a motion picture company might, in the long run, lead to "dictation" to the public as to what they should and should not see in the way of film entertainment.

The whole controversy, which has attracted nationwide attention, is being followed closely by Fleet street's corps of film critics to whom the issue has become a test case.

Amateurs Big Draw At Belsize, Toronto

"Standing Room Only" signs are being hung out every Thursday by Lloyd Mills, manager of Twentieth Century's Belsize Theatre, when he presents Ken Rolland and his "Amateur Night."

Notoriously a bad theatre night in subsequent-run houses, Thursday evening attendance at the Belsize has been hypoed by the amateurs, with audience reaction being highly favorable.

Winners, if suitable, are given a week's booking at the Chaudiere Golf and Country Club near Hull, Quebec.

'Hardboiled' Set

Pine and Thomas announced that they will start production of "Hardboiled" shortly after the first of the year. An original by Tom Ahearn, "Hardboiled" is a story of the hazardous work of steeplejacks.

Lyric, Kitchener, Robbed Of \$820

Safecrackers battered open the old-type safe in the office of Premier Operating Corporation's Lyric Theatre, largest house in Kitchener, Ontario, recently and stole approximately \$820 in cash.

Access to the office was believed to have been gained by one of the thieves hiding in the theatre after the last show. The theft was discovered the following morning by the caretaker, John Swartzentruber.

Monogram To Film Famous Poem

Monogram has purchased Alfred Noyes' famous narrative poem, "The Highwayman," from James S. Burkett and has budgeted the film at \$1,000,000. Most of the picture will be shot in England.

Virginia Field Joins 'Variety Girl' Cast

Because she has lovely legs, Virginia Field, golden-haired glamor girl, has been assigned to the cast of Paramount's 36-star "Variety Girl," musical comedy which George Marshall is directing. In this romantic story of Hollywood life, Virginia will play herself in a comedy scene in which the dialogue demands an actress with an attractive figure and legs.

Reo, Watford, Opens

The Reo, Watford, Ontario, was opened recently by Bruce McCleod, circuit operator, with public ceremonies.



That Keeps **BUSY**
The Cashiers



THOMAS MITCHELL
EDNA BEST—FREDDIE BARTHOLOMEW—TERRY KILBURN—TIM HOLT
BABY BOBBY QUILLON in

SWISS FAMILY ROBINSON

DISTRIBUTED BY

PEERLESS FILMS LIMITED

TORONTO—MONTREAL—ST. JOHN



Universal's Hit, 'Magnificent Doll' Has Rogers, Niven, Meredith

STARRING Ginger Rogers, David Niven and Burgess Meredith, "Magnificent Doll," from Empire-Universal, has three powerful marquee names to draw the customers in and the opulence of the production, plus the liveliness of the story, should be sufficient to keep them contentedly there.

Dealing with part of the life of Dolly Madison before she married James Madison and became the First Lady of the United States, the film is fictionalized biography and although the story has been twisted to suit screen purposes, it emerges as a bit of choice entertainment.

